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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

Saturday, July 22, 1939.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "FEED MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN CHICKENS." Information from the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture.

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The story I have to tell you today is about seven little chickens and how they grew. If you go to the World's Poultry Congress in Cleveland, Ohio, the twenty-eighth of this month to the seventh of August, you can see these chicks for yourself.

Most of the chickens on display at the Poultry Congress will be strong, healthy, and well-fed. But these seven chicks are exceptions. They're "queer ones" exhibited to show how wrong feeding affects the growth of chickens. Each one of those chicks shows a different kind of abnormal growth resulting from a different food lack. Each chick has suffered because some necessary food element was left out of its diet.

Chick No. 1 has bent, twisted legs. Its legs are deformed because it had insufficient manganese in its feed. To be sure your chicks avoid this trouble, see that their feed contains enough manganese. Anhydrous manganese sulphate is the material generally used to supply ^{additional} manganese when the other ingredients do not contain enough.

Chick No. 2 has short legs, and a soft, crisscrossed beak, and stunted growth, all because it didn't get any sunshine or cod-liver oil to supply the vitamin D it needed.

Chick No. 3 has sore eyes and shanks and beak that are faded nearly white. This chicken didn't get the vitamin A it needed. This poor little chick got no yellow corn, or green feed, or cod-liver oil, or any other food that would have

supplied vitamin A.

Chick No. 4 couldn't scratch for its supper because its toes curled inward. Its toes did not grow properly because it didn't get vitamin G or riboflavin. This chick would have had straight toes if its feed had contained some dried skimmilk, or dried whey, or dried buttermilk, or if it had had green feed like alfalfa leaf meal.

Chick No. 5 stands with its neck bent over its back and its beak pointing up in the air. This poor chick was short of vitamin B. It had no grain or seeds which would have supplied vitamin B. Fortunately, most chickens don't have this trouble because they have grain and seeds.

Chick No. 6 has a huge hemorrhage under its skin. Its blood was not right because it didn't get enough vitamin K. If this chick had had fresh greens such as kale to eat, or dried alfalfa, it would not have had this hemorrhage.

Chick No. 7 has crusty sores at the corners of its mouth. This chick had very little grain to eat. Most chicks don't have these sores because they get plenty of grain and other feeds that contain what the scientists call the anti-dermatosis factor.

Well, that's the story of seven poorly fed chicks which will be on exhibit at the World's Poultry Congress the last of this month. They are on exhibit to show anyone who is raising poultry how different diet lacks affect the growth and health of their young birds.

If you notice odd-looking chicks running with your flock, you may be wise to give more consideration to the feed you are giving them. If some of the chicks are runts -- have stunted growth, or if they have crooked legs or short legs, or if they're pigeon-toed, they are probably going short on certain foods they need.

Feed makes a difference not only in the way chickens grow but also in the color of their skin. Some people like to buy chickens with yellow skin; others

prefer white-skinned chicken. You can raise chickens with either yellow or white skin. An exhibit showing you how is another feature of the Poultry Congress. If you raise yellow-skinned breeds of chickens, you can keep the skin yellow or change it to white by the way you feed your chickens. The White Leghorn and the Rhode Island Red are both yellow-skinned breeds. If you want to market these chickens with yellow skins, all you have to do is to feed them a diet of yellow corn and alfalfa leaf meal. Corn and yellow-pigment bearing feeds, like alfalfa, contain enough color to dress out yellow-skinned chickens with considerable yellow in their skin.

But if you want these same chickens to have white skin, raise them on a diet that lacks yellow. Feed them white corn instead of yellow corn and alfalfa leaf meal. Give them dried milk by-products and also cod-liver oil so they won't go shy on vitamins A, D and G. Then they will go to market with white skin which has very little yellow color showing.

On the other hand, if you raise white-skinned breeds of chickens like Light Sussex, for example, these chickens will keep their white skins whether you give them yellow corn and alfalfa leaf meal or whether you don't. The yellow and green feeds color their skin faintly, but only faintly.

The exhibit of the seven poorly fed chicks and the chickens with yellow or white skin are only two of the many exhibits which the United States Department of Agriculture is sending to the Poultry Congress to help poultry raisers produce better birds for market.

